

SEKI et al., SN 10/076,566  
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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering portion for registering retrieval requests issued by users;

~~a retrieval device portion for retrieving information from the databases on the basis of contents of said retrieval request in said registering portion registered and sending retrieval results to said users; and~~

~~a retrieval processing duplicate integrating portion for integrating combining duplicates requested in differing said retrieval requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated retrieval request to lessen a number of retrieval requests;~~

a retrieval device portion for retrieving information from the databases on the basis of contents of said integrated retrieval request integrating said retrieval requests to obtain retrieval results; and

an output creating portion for creating, on the basis of the retrieval requests issued by the users and said retrieval results, retrieval results data to be sent to said users when information is retrieved from said databases.

2. (Currently Amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein in said retrieval reservation registration registering portion, duplicates are checked and

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eliminated in said retrieval requests which exist at present and in the past so as to integrate retrieval conditions.

3. (Currently Amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein Claim 2, wherein said retrieval device portion edits said retrieval results data in a predetermined format by user by checking duplicates of the retrieval requests issued by users respectively and sends said edited retrieval results data to said users respectively on the basis of retrieval conditions desired by said users, said retrieval results data being acquired on the basis of said integrated retrieval conditions.

4. (Currently Amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 3, wherein upon edition editing of said retrieval results by user, said retrieval device portion eliminates duplicates from said retrieval results desired by each of said users and Integrates said retrieval results by each of said users when there are said duplicates in contents of said retrieval results, so that said retrieval device portion sends said edited retrieval results data to said user.

5. (Currently Amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 2, further comprising a method in which at least one previously retrieved result is held in said retrieval reservation-registration registering portion, so that, when a user issues a retrieval request, said user selects on a basis of information freshness desired by the user to acquire a retrieval result from said held retrieval at least one previously

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retrieved result retrieved among a predetermined time interval or to execute new retrieval from original data.

6. (Currently Amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 3 wherein, when there are duplicates in retrieval requests among users and said retrieval requests are integrated to thereby acquire a said retrieval result results, said retrieval device portion, makes on the basis of retrieval, copies of said retrieval result, integrates duplicates in said retrieval results by each of the users, and sends thus modified said retrieval result results to said respective users issuing said requests for said acquired retrieval result results data.

7. (Currently Amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein said retrieval device portion acquires or sends retrieval results in accordance with said retrieval reservation registration requests at predetermined intervals of time on the basis of predetermined information freshness.

8. (Currently Amended) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising the steps of:  
registering retrieval requests issued by users;  
retrieving information from databases on the basis of contents of said registered retrieval requests and sending retrieval results to said users; and

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integrating combining duplicates requested in differing said retrieval requests  
in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated retrieval request to  
lessen a number of retrieval requests;

retrieving information from databases on the basis of contents of said  
integrated retrieval request integrating said registered retrieval requests to obtain  
retrieval results; and

creating, on the basis of said retrieval requests issued by users and said  
retrieval results, retrieval results data to be sent to said users, and sending results  
said retrieval results data to said users when information is retrieved from said  
databases.

9. (New) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval requests issued by users;  
integrating said retrieval requests by eliminating duplicates in said retrieval requests;

retrieving said databases by using said integrated retrieval requests and acquiring retrieval results;

generating duplicates of retrieval results from said acquired retrieval results;  
editing said duplicates of retrieval results on the basis of said retrieval requests; and

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integrating said duplicates of retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval results to be sent to each of said users on the basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval results.

**10. (New) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:**

a retrieval reservation registering portion for registering retrieval requests issued by users;

a retrieval requests integrating portion for integrating said retrieval requests by eliminating duplicates in said retrieval requests;

a retrieval device portion for retrieving said databases by using said integrated retrieval requests and acquiring retrieval results;

a duplicate generating portion for generating duplicates of retrieval results from said acquired retrieval results;

a retrieval results editing portion for editing said duplicates of retrieval results on the basis of said retrieval requests; and

a retrieval results integrating portion for integrating said duplicates of retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval results to be sent to each of said users on the basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval results.

**11. (New) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:**

registering retrieval requests issued by users;

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combining said retrieval requests by eliminating duplicates existing in differing said retrieval requests;

retrieving retrieval requests from said databases by using said integrated retrieval requests;

generating duplicate retrieval results from retrieval results;

editing ones of said duplicate retrieval results on a basis of said retrieval requests; and

integrating said duplicate retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval results to be sent to each of said users on a basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval results.

12. (New) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering portion for registering retrieval requests issued by users;

a retrieval requests integrating portion for combining said retrieval requests by eliminating duplicates existing in differing said retrieval requests to produce integrated retrieval requests;

a retrieval device portion for retrieving retrieval results from said databases by using said integrated retrieval requests;

a duplicate generating portion for generating duplicate retrieval results from retrieval results;

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a retrieval results editing portion for editing said duplicate retrieval results on a basis of said retrieval requests; and

a retrieval results integrating portion for integrating said duplicate retrieval results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval results to be sent to each of said users on a basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval results.